

ABSTRACT

The present inventors have found that relaxin-3 has a feeding-stimulating activity, a body weight increasing activity, and fat weight increasing activity by intracerebroventricularly administering relaxin-3 to rats and observing the amount of feeding, body weight and fat weight, and so on after the administration. According to the present invention, a polypeptide having useful effects in stimulating feeding, increasing body weight, and fattening; a therapeutic agent containing said polypeptide; a method of screening for a compound, a substance, or a salt thereof which activates or suppresses a receptor of said polypeptide; a kit for said screening; and an agent which comprises a substance which inhibits expression of said polypeptide, such as a feeding-surpressing agent, a therapeutic agent for the treatment of obesity, and a therapeutic agent for the treatment of diabetes.